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Send your  
submissions  
for About  
Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit (on display during some portion of the two months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece;
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work (up to 300 words);

- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Deadline for submissions for the September/October issue is Aug. 1. Please send submissions to [writeus@livelytimes.com](mailto:writeus@livelytimes.com) with About Visual Arts in the subject line.

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Featured Artist: Dan Palagyi  
Through August at Zoot Gallery in Bozeman

Billings artist Dan Palagyi was born in Lewistown and raised in nearby Roundup. While attending Montana State University, he took a painting class, felt an immediate connection and changed his major to fine arts.

In 1998, Palagyi moved from Bozeman to Portland, where he found fresh inspiration for his art. Strip clubs in the city provided him with the opportunity to sketch the movement of the dancers, which became a catalyst for change: The lines that represented the human form in his sketchbooks were showing up in his paintings, without the figurative emphasis.

He played trumpet with jazz musicians, and the improvisation found in jazz became another source of inspiration. He also began collaborating with video artists, musicians and dancers on performance pieces.

While Palagyi's current work draws its inspiration from internal and external stimulus, the sense of movement and rhythm in his work echoes back to these times.

"I also find inspiration from observation," he says. "One never knows what ordinary events or objects may spark a new idea."

Palagyi has shown his work throughout the Northwest, including exhibits at the Charlie White Gallery in Portland, Walking Man Gallery in Whitefish and the Prodigal Gallery in Billings; his work was also featured in the Missoula Art Museum's Montana Triennial and the Yellowstone Art Museum's Art Auction.



"Galaxie 500" by Dan Palagyi

Louise Lamontagne: "My Closet Collection"  
July 12-Sept. 29 at the Missoula Art Museum, with a reception  
and artist talk, 5-8 p.m. Aug. 2

Artist's website: [louiselamontagne.net](http://louiselamontagne.net)

St. Ignatius artist Louise Lamontagne, whose luscious, expressive landscapes have appeared in group shows at the Missoula Art Museum, shares a previously unseen body of work in this solo exhibition.

"Between 2005 and 2010, while away from Montana attending to family commitments, I decided it was finally time. Not having the lure of the Montana landscape to distract and inspire me, I looked inward," she says.

The artist created hundreds of sketches and paintings in a variety of media. "I often began after a period of meditation, or inspirational reading, but many times I just started. No reference photo, no external imagery, just a desire to paint and express. These pieces are intimate and intuitive, spontaneous and raw. They are my 'prayers' expressed in paint."

Lamontagne is an experienced artist with an obsessive approach to making art. And like many of her contemporaries, she doesn't shy away from using whichever language and art-making process accomplishes her objective.

MAM curator Stephen Glueckert sees the influences of modernism and the surrealists' "automatic painting" tradition in Lamontagne's latest work. "By taking this jump and persisting in this creative endeavor, she has created a significant body of work ... that reflects the need of the artist to record the observations of the natural world, but to also explore that which is unseen."



"Meditation in NYC 1" by Louise Lamontagne

Featured Artist: Jim Goebel  
Through July at the Venus Rising Gallery (with Wendy Marquis),  
and at the Charles Clark Chateau Museum in Butte

Jim Goebel, who grew up in Havre, says his passion for art began as a child, when he would draw the comics that appeared in the local paper. He took drafting in high school and earned a degree in drafting technology from MSU Northern in 1979.

Eventually, he moved to Butte and became a professional land surveyor, but health concerns forced him to leave his profession in 2011. "Constant headaches had crushed any ambition for artwork for several years," he says. "To combat this condition,



"Reflections" by Jim Goebel

I started practicing a combination of art and music as therapy for pain relief."

Now, he draws or paints daily, and continues to investigate the connection between art and healing. "One thing I do know – there is a connection between art and music and how the brain works. Studies have proven that," he says. "Now I do art every day and will continue to pursue the ideas and visions that inspire me to create."

His subjects include landscapes, wildlife, still lifes and hot rods. He works primarily in oil and pencil, but also in acrylic and colored pencil.

His background as a draftsman carries through in his meticulous approach to his artwork. "For paintings, I start with a toned background, then a carefully rendered pencil drawing is made, followed by three or more layers of paint," he says.

Goebel is also the design leader for the Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel Project and an active member of the Copper City Artists. Two works – an oil painting and pencil drawing – were accepted into the 2013 Montana Interpretations Show, on display through June at the U.S. Bank in Butte.

Perry Haas: Solo Resident Exhibit  
August 2-30 at the Clay Studio in Missoula with a reception,  
5:30-9 p.m. Aug. 2

Artist's website: [www.perryhaasceramics.com](http://www.perryhaasceramics.com)

Perry Haas, who is currently the wood-fire resident artist at the Clay Studio, has been working in ceramics since 2003 and earned a BFA in ceramics from Utah State University.

Ceramics has taken him to China, where he studied in Jingdezhen, and to Korea, where he stayed and studied with ceramic artist Hung Chung Lee. "My background knowledge of the Asian tradition is evident in my work," he writes. "Teapots, tea ware and the strong relationship and ceremony between the pot and the user have become a passion for me."

He's also interested in human shapes and the organic forms found in nature. Wood firing "has captured my interest because of its ability to record the symbolic elements of the fire and clay relationship," he writes.

His current work explores the impact of pressure and force on large-scale platters, akin to the geological forces at work in shaping the Earth's crust. "Unpredictability is the nature of this process, along with knowing that it has a higher risk of failure," he says. "It is a game of chance and time that I enjoy."

His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions, most recently at Pottery Northwest in Seattle, Market House Craft Center in Petersburg, PA, and the Plinth Gallery in Denver. He's also been featured in international shows, including the ICMEA Emerging Artist Competition in China, and received a purchase award from the NCECA Biennale.



Platter by Perry Haas

Kim Waldman: "Ready Set Crow"  
Aug. 1-Sept. 2 at Stumptown Art Studio in Whitefish, with a  
reception 6-9 p.m. Aug. 1

Artist's website: [www.motherbirdart.com](http://www.motherbirdart.com)

A tragic event in early childhood led California native Kim Waldman to become a nurse. She discovered a passion for painting in her mid-20s, when she began to create self-portraits and vivid gouache paintings of circus performers, musicians and dancers.

"Then birds flew into my work," she says. The artist loves all birds, but is especially drawn to crows – "their vulnerability, their beauty and their quiet intelligence."

The self-taught artist refers to herself as a "folk expressionist." Her colorful, whimsical paintings meld negative space, elaborate, finely detailed patterns

and metaphor: "the concept of a path as a journey, trees symbolize being rooted to a sense of place, and birds are messengers from above."

"Rhythm," she adds, "is always afoot in my paintings." She employed the musical score from The Beatles' "Good Day Sunshine" in her painting "Band of Crows" to accentuate her subjects dancing and playing music on a stage.

Waldman moved to Whitefish a year ago, and continues to work part-time as a nurse while making room for the visions and creations that find their way into her paintings. "My life has rounded out to be inclusive of my passion for art, my love of birds and my respect for performance."



"Band of Crows" by Kim Waldman